



4REAL School

A dynamic, integrative curriculum for grades 6-12 that engages youth globally through art, music, culture and digital media to create community and positive change.

Experience COMPASSION, LEADERSHIP,
INSPIRATION and ACTION
with 4REAL

GLOBAL EDUCATION RESOURCE FOR A NEW GENERATION



About 4REAL SCHOOL Curriculum

REAL PEOPLE. REAL PLACES. REAL STORIES. REAL CHANGE.

4REAL School is a global educational resource that includes the eight-part 4REAL documentary series on DVD as well as teaching guides (curricular documents in printed or digital format). 4REAL School engages youth intellectually, compassionately and actively. It empowers students to think critically about global and local issues and ultimately inspires them to make positive contributions to their communities. 4REAL School supports educators in their efforts to engage students in addressing issues such as:

- Poverty
- Diversity
- Environment
- Social Justice
- Human Rights

4REAL School tells the stories of young leaders and their courage, creativity and dedication to tackling issues in their communities. Each 4REAL documentary follows Host Sol Guy as he takes celebrity guests on adventures to different parts of the world to meet inspirational young leaders.

Each curricular document offers educators ideas for interactive activities that promote the principle of peer and experiential education and encourage youth to actively listen to and learn from one other about global issues that affect us all. Included in the documents are:

- Ready-to-Use Lesson Plans
- In-depth Background Information
- Graphic Organizers
- Experiential & Online Learning Activities

4REAL School is designed for integration across grade 6-12 curricular subject areas such as Social Studies, Language Arts, Geography, Social Justice, Career and Health Education, Media Arts and Leadership.

Note: Beyond the exposure that 4REAL provides, the young leaders profiled are 4REAL partners, with 50 percent of the documentary series' profits going directly to the leaders' initiatives.

4REAL School Approach and Goals

4REAL School strives to involve students on three different levels: intellectually (head), compassionately (heart), and actively (hand).



1. The Head — Intellectual

The “head” involves presenting as many perspectives as possible from a variety of information sources addressing global issues and social change. These activities will enable students to better understand the information presented to them, to analyze it and to practice critical thinking.



2. The Heart — Empathetic involvement of students

An important component of 4REAL School is empathy training and integrating care, compassion and empathy into the classroom through experiential learning activities. These activities will help students to compassionately integrate and act upon the knowledge she or he has gained.



3. The Hand — Action project

The “hand” involves searching for and examining possible solutions to different problems and determining ways that we can work individually and collectively towards these solutions. Rather than leaving students with a sense of despair or hopelessness for resolution to injustices they learn about. This approach helps them to develop a sense of empowerment to actively make a difference at school, at home and in the world.

4REAL School Goals

- To increase students’ critical, creative thinking, and problem solving skills and understanding of the global issues confronting youth.
- To encourage optimism in students to transform adversity into opportunities for positive change.
- To provide experiential learning opportunities for students to demonstrate care, compassion and empathy for themselves, for others at home and abroad, and for the environment.
- To encourage students to develop an awareness, understanding and openness to learn about and from other cultures and perspectives.
- To demonstrate that media, art, music, culture and technology can be powerful ways to promote learning and social change.
- To support educators in teaching holistically and incorporating learning from one meaningful and relevant topic to the next and across curricular subjects areas.
- To provide a variety of creative instructional strategies to effectively engage youth and create powerful learning environments.
- To provide inspiring examples of youth leadership through the stories of young leaders addressing global issues and making a difference in their communities and in the world.

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4REAL School Yawanawa

- Leader featured:** Tashka Yawawnawa
Celebrity guest: Joaquin Phoenix
Location featured: Yawanawa community in the Amazon Rainforest, Brazil
Themes explored: Cultural Diversity, Deforestation, Corporate Social Responsibility, and Transformative Leadership

Documentary Synopsis

Sol Guy takes Academy Award-nominated actor Joaquin Phoenix into the heart of the Amazon Rainforest to meet Indigenous leaders Chief Tashka and Laura Yawanawa. Tashka and Laura's fight for their land, focus on their economy and commitment to traditions have empowered the Yawanawa and brought them back from the brink of cultural extinction. Sol and Joaquin journey on single-engine planes and tiny boats deep into the Brazilian Amazon where they learn about the importance of the rainforest, and traditions and history of the vibrant Yawanawa community.

Curricular Document Snapshot

4REAL School Yawanawa takes students through the journey of understanding the importance of cultural diversity, causes and consequences of deforestation, challenges faced by the Yawanawa Indigenous community in the Amazon and how to transform adversity into opportunities for growth and change.

Lesson Summaries

Cultural Diversity

Students use a variety of media and photographs to explore culture as both inherent in and the product of socially learned patterns of behaviour, institutions, values, and belief systems. Students learn how to identify, compare, and appreciate the cultural characteristics of different regions and people.

Deforestation

Students experientially discover the complexities involved in protecting natural resources. Through role-playing stakeholders interested in the Amazon Rainforest, negotiating for resources, and learning about the causes and consequences of rainforest destruction, students will collaboratively discuss sustainable strategies to protect the rainforest.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Students gain an understanding of the role of corporations in environmental leadership and social responsibility. Through a detailed case study, students learn about Aveda's (US-based cosmetic company) strategic partnership with the Yawanawa and the sustainable initiatives they have successfully implemented.

Transformative Leadership

Students identify leadership qualities and witness positive change that can result from taking action as a community leader. Chief Tashka uses the transformational approach of addressing issues through optimism. This powerful strategy enables him to transform adversity into opportunities in order to affect social change. Students are encouraged to reflect on ways that they can address challenges in their lives and transform them into opportunities.



4REAL School Peru

- Leader featured:** Puma Singona
Celebrity guest: Cameron Diaz
Location featured: Machu Picchu and Cusco, Peru
Themes explored: Colonization, Cultural Traditions and Gratitude, Media and its Role in Social Change, and Environmental Stewardship



Documentary Synopsis

Host Sol Guy and actress Cameron Diaz trek high into the Andes Mountains of Peru where young medicine man, Puma Singona, of the Quechua people, is keeping his people's ancient traditions and wisdom alive. As a young person, Puma sits on a council of elders, runs a youth cultural group and is recognized worldwide for his healing work. Sol and Cameron join Puma to participate in cultural ceremonies, to learn about Quechua traditions and to share a passion for protecting and respecting the environment.

Curricular Document Snapshot

4REAL School Peru takes students through the journey of understanding the challenges faced by the Quechua, the importance of maintaining cultural traditions, honouring our connection to Pachamama (Mother Earth) and the role media can play in achieving positive social change.

Lesson Summaries

Understanding Colonization

Students learn about the colonization of Peru and its effects on the Indigenous people. While this lesson teaches students about the injustices people have experienced as a result of colonization and draws on students' personal experience being treated unjustly (to develop empathetic understanding), ultimately students will finish feeling optimistic about the future and empowered to make a difference.

Celebrating Cultural Tradition and Gratitude

Students learn about the traditional Inti Raymi ceremony and connect it to the importance of practicing gratitude. The lesson draws attention to how a consumerism-based society reduces people to "consumers" who need "more stuff" in order to be happy. Through playing the gratitude game, students are encouraged to take a step back and appreciate what they have, who they are and people in their lives who support and care for them.

Media and Its Role in Social Change

Students consider the influence of celebrities and their involvement in social change. We live in a

society surrounded by influential imagery, behaviour, thinking and language through the media. This lesson is designed to challenge students to examine what roles modern-day celebrities play in shaping our world and whether, they are using their "star power" to affect positive change.

Our Connection to Pachamama (Mother Earth)

In Quechuan culture there is a strong connection to and respect for "Pachamama," the Quechua word for "Mother Earth." Pachamama also represents the concept of living in harmony with the Earth. Honouring Pachamama is an integrated way of life for Quechuan medicine man, Puma Singona. Throughout 4REAL Peru he often brings the audience's attention back to how his people respect nature. This lesson teaches students about the importance of the human connection to Earth through learning, understanding and conducting a Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) of a product. This lesson provides a tangible way for students to understand how interconnected they are to their environment, both locally and globally.

4REAL School Kenya

Leader featured: Salim Mohamed

Celebrity guest: K'NAAN

Location featured: Kibera, Kenya

Themes explored: The Power of Music to Create Change, the World Water Crisis, Quality and Inequality of Life, and Community Leadership.

Documentary Synopsis

Host Sol Guy takes international hip hop star K'NAAN to Kibera, the largest “slum” in East Africa, to connect with local youth leader Salim Mohamed. Salim helped found Carolina for Kibera, an organization that focuses on community empowerment. Salim takes Sol and K'NAAN into the heart of Kibera, where he shows them Carolina for Kibera’s medical clinic and the community development soccer program he coordinates for more than 4,000 youth. During the adventure, K'NAAN and Sol find beauty and dignity in the most unexpected place and they are forever changed by Salim’s incredible spirit.

Curricular Document Snapshot

4REAL School Kenya takes students through the journey of understanding the challenges faced by youth living in Kibera, Kenya. Through learning about hip hop star K'NAAN, students deepen their understanding of the potential and influence of art and music as vehicles of global awareness. Students learn through Salim’s incredible leadership about the importance contributing to your community and finding love, hope and optimism in situations of poverty and despair.

Lesson Summaries

Power in the Voice of a Poet

This lesson highlights the role of hip hop culture in creating global change, which was acknowledged by the United Nations in 2004 as an effective means in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Exploring K'NAAN's messages of social change in his poetry and music will inspire students to reflect on their own challenges in life through poetry and art.

World Water Crisis

Students will gain a greater understanding of the global water crisis as a contemporary issue of international significance. Students will become familiar with the relationship between water, poverty and health. Students will be encouraged to think about ways in which they can raise awareness about water issues in their own communities and around the world.

Quality of Life

Students will compare the quality of life in an African “slum” to the quality of life in their own community. The lesson will help to give students an understanding of the challenges of living in poverty. It may encourage them to develop a sense of their own privileged position in the world and to develop empathy toward children and youth without such privilege. This process will enable them to develop an awareness of their roles as global citizens and willingness to not only contribute to but also to learn from another culture.

Community Leadership

This lesson is designed for students to learn about the qualities of leadership and the positive changes that may result from taking action as a community leader. Through watching the 4REAL Kenya documentary and identifying Salim Mohamed's leadership skills, students will be able to explore ways to strengthen their own leadership skills and to better understand how their own actions may have potential as forms of leadership in their community.



4REAL School City of God

Leader featured: MV Bill

Celebrity guest: Mos Def

Location featured: City of God, Brazil

Themes explored: Poverty, Racism, Children’s Rights, Youth Violence and the Drug Trade, Global Hip Hop as a Tool for Change, Dreams and the Power to Make a Difference.

Documentary Synopsis

Host Sol Guy takes rap superstar and actor Mos Def to meet Brazilian hip hop heavyweight MV Bill. Born and raised in the infamous City of God, MV Bill uses his talent and influence to empower the children of Brazil’s favelas (slums). He has dedicated himself to documenting the lives of children caught in Brazil’s brutal drug trafficking trade and he helped establish Central Única das Favelas (CUFA), a community organization that focuses on providing alternatives for children living in favelas. The adventure takes Mos Def and Sol to Brazil’s biggest hip hop festival, into the heart of the City of God, and onto the stage where Mos and Bill perform together for thousands of Brazilian hip hop fans.

Curricular Document Snapshot

4REAL School City of God takes students through the journey of understanding the challenges and injustices faced by youth living in the favelas of Brazil. Students learn through MV Bill’s positive leadership about the importance of speaking out against racial and social class injustices, providing alternatives for youth and helping them to follow their dreams. MV Bill uses hip hop to convey his messages of truth and transformation.

Lesson Summaries

Socio-Economic Class Divisions

The previewing lesson engages students in an experiential learning activity emphasizing the implications and consequences of living in a hierarchical socio-economic system and how these differences become extreme without public, social programs to offer support to individuals and communities.

Global Power of Hip Hop

Students gain an understanding of the role of hip hop as a global influence. Students are encouraged to listen to or read hip hop lyrics and critically analyze the messages found in them. After comparing various hip hop artists’ messages, students will generate a hypothesis about the various lyrics and the potential effects of the lyrics on the listeners. Connections are made between the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals and hip hop as a tool for social change.

Students have the opportunity to share their own powerful message through music.

Children’s Rights

Students learn about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, distinguish the difference between basic needs, rights and wants and learn how the rights of children living in favelas in Brazil are being severely violated.

Speaking Out Against Injustices

This lesson emphasizes the importance of speaking out as an “Active Witness” against discrimination and injustices. Students will learn about the manifestations of discrimination, how MV Bill is speaking out against injustices in his community and how “Active Witnessing” can help eliminate injustices, racism and discrimination in their own lives and in society.

Creating a Positive Future

This lesson is designed to help empower students to realize and actualize their dreams. Students will compile various images, symbols, words and phrases to create and envision board that represents their ideal futures. They are encouraged to take into consideration the global community and planetary sustainability.



4REAL School Liberia

Leader featured: Kimmie Weeks

Celebrity guest: M.I.A.

Location featured: Monrovia, Liberia

Themes explored: Messages through Music, Child Soldiers and Conflict Diamonds, Access to Education, International Aid, and Leadership



Documentary Synopsis

Host Sol Guy takes music artist M.I.A. to Liberia to meet child rights advocate Kimmie Weeks. Weeks is the founder of Youth Action International (YAI), an organization that helps alleviate the suffering of children affected by war and empowers them to reach their full potential. Kimmie's group provides educational opportunities and employment and is building some of the first playgrounds in post-war Liberia, among other projects. For Sol and M.I.A., their adventure takes them from jungle-gym painting to a visit with Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to a dance party in a Monrovia neighbourhood.

Curricular Document Snapshot

4REAL School Liberia takes students through the journey of understanding the civil war over diamonds in Liberia, realities of being a child soldier and Liberia's struggle to rebuild with the help of the international community. Students learn through Kimmie's dedicated leadership about the importance of providing opportunities for former child soldiers such as play, education and employment training. Students make comparisons between their own learning opportunities and reflect on the inequalities of learning conditions for youth in Liberia.

Lesson Summaries

Messaging through Music

Students are introduced to "World Town"—a song by M.I.A. and students will identify the rhetorical strategies M.I.A. uses to convey subject matter, theme, mood and tone. Students analyze the writing and convey their findings through creative presentation and discussion. Students may use dramatic techniques to reflect on the mood, tone and themes of the song

Education as a Right for All Children

Students engage in an experiential learning activity that draws comparisons between the different educational opportunities and learning conditions for students in various parts of the world. Students are encouraged to think critically about their access to resources in a school setting and the importance of education as a right for all children.

Child Soldiers

Students learn about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, distinguish the difference between basic needs, rights and wants. Through watching 4REAL Liberia and reading case studies about former child soldiers in Liberia, students learn how the rights of children affected by war are severely violated. Through a Play-Debrief-Replay (PDR) strategy students are encouraged to think critically about the benefits of play not only in their own lives but also for the healing of youth living in war-affected areas.

Liberia – A Global Responsibility

Students learn about the roles that the United Nations, the Liberian Government (President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international aid have played in helping Liberia to recover from 14 years of civil conflict. Through reading case studies and gaining knowledge from multiple perspectives, students will discuss and explore the notion of the shared responsibility of global community in assisting nations to recover from crisis.



4REAL School Haiti

Leader featured: Camseuze Moise

Celebrity guest: Flea, bassist of the Red Hot Chili Peppers

Location featured: Jeremie, Haiti

Themes explored: Poverty, Global Inequality, Access to Health Care, and Community Leadership.

Documentary Synopsis

In the hills of western Haiti, the bassist of Red Hot Chili Peppers (Flea) and Sol Guy meet rural health aide, Camseuze Moise, who provides medical care and health education to thousands of people. Sol and Flea join Camseuze as she travels to villages across the countryside, educating, empowering and saving lives.

Curricular Document Snapshot

4REAL School Haiti takes students through the journey of understanding the corrupt history of Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and how it is affected by globalization. Students learn through Camseuze's radiant personality and dedication to her community how one person can make a dramatic difference specifically in the area of health and education. Students are encouraged to think critically about global inequalities, equitable solutions for health care and what they can do personally to make a difference.

Lesson Summaries

Global Inequalities

Students will gain knowledge and an empathetic understanding for those who suffer the effects of globalization through the following: (a) participating in a simulation activity that visually represents global wealth distribution and the vast differences in wealth and resources between more affluent nations and less affluent nations in the world; (b) participating in critical dialogue, and (c) reading and reflecting on an article about how Haiti has been affected by globalization. Students are encouraged to think critically about access to wealth and resources in their own communities and around the world.

Faisons une Difference

Intended for a French-as-a-second-language class, 4REAL Haiti serves as a meaningful and authentic springboard for understanding cultural differences. It also shows students the connection between appreciating cultural diversity and contributing to positive change. Students will gain an understanding of the importance of volunteering in various communities, discover the volunteering activities of well-known cultural figures and participate in a

volunteering project that responds to community needs.

Health Care for All

Through experiential activities, games, exploring case studies and comparing their lives to those of Haitians, students will learn about the living conditions and lack of health care in Haiti. This results in serious health issues and an extremely high mortality rate for children. Students examine the health care in Haiti and have the opportunity to design a strategic plan that would enable greater access to health care in rural areas of the developing world.

Community Leadership

Students learn about the qualities of leadership and the positive changes that can result from taking action as a community leader. Through watching 4REAL Haiti and identifying Camseuze Moise's leadership skills, students will be able to explore ways to strengthen their own leadership skills and to better understand how their own actions may have potential as forms of leadership in their community.



4REAL School Pawnee

Leader featured: Crystal Echo Hawk

Celebrity guest: Casey Affleck

Location featured: Pawnee Reservation, Oklahoma

Themes explored: Colonization, Residential Schools, Aboriginal Stereotypes, Respect for Elders, Media Arts for Empowerment and Social Change

Documentary Synopsis

Sol Guy takes actor Casey Affleck to the Pawnee Nation reservation in Oklahoma to meet Native leader Crystal Echo Hawk and her NVision crew. NVision, a collective of Native men and women, uses hip hop, popular culture, film and visual and performing arts to create a dialogue with Native youth and inspires them to succeed.

Curricular Document Snapshot

4REAL School Pawnee takes students through the journey of understanding the harmful effects of colonization, reservations, residential schools and stereotypes on Aboriginal peoples. Additionally, students explore the role of Aboriginal elders and elders in their own community. Through the inspiring leadership of the NVision team, students learn about the use of a variety of media arts to express emotions, thoughts and ideas to create positive change.

Lesson Summaries

Understanding the Effects of Colonization, Residential School

Students learn about the effects of colonization and residential schools through simulation activities, reading about the Pawnee Nation's experience and drawing on their own experiences of injustice. They will be encouraged to express these injustices through a form of artistic storytelling in a medium of their choice.

Aboriginal Stereotypes

Students explore the pervasiveness and harmful effects of stereotyping in the media and in our society. Students identify the differences between positive and negative stereotypes within ethnic groups and will analyze various forms of media to understand the tendency of the media to under-represent or misrepresent various ethnic groups, with a focus on Aboriginal cultures.

Respect for Elders

Students look at the role of elders in both their communities and their own individual lives in efforts to understand the concept of respect for one's elders and the interconnectedness of the older and younger generations. Through examining the role Aboriginal elders play in their communities and interviewing an elder from their own community, students will be encouraged to recognize the knowledge that can be gained from their lived experiences.

Expression through Media Arts

In 4REAL Pawnee a variety of creative workshops facilitated by the NVision leaders are intended to give a voice to the experiences and struggles of Aboriginal peoples and leave youth feeling empowered and proud of their cultural identity. Students are encouraged to choose a medium to express themselves (art, music, culture and/or digital media) to shed light on their struggles or an issue affecting them on personal, local or global scale.



4REAL School Vancouver

Leader featured: Liz Evans

Celebrity guest: Eva Mendes

Location featured: Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, Canada

Themes Explored: Substance Misuse, Stereotypes, Homelessness, Poverty and Active citizenship

Documentary Synopsis

Host Sol Guy brings actress Eva Mendes to his hometown to connect with community advocate Liz Evans and her organization, the Portland Hotel Society (PHS). Liz and her staff are on the frontlines of lending dignity and stability to the lives of the people living in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, a neighbourhood rife with homelessness, addiction and disease. By spending time with individuals at PHS, both Eva and Sol begin to understand and develop compassion for the people living in what is known as Canada's "poorest postal code."

Curricular Document Snapshot

4REAL School Vancouver takes students through the journey of understanding the factors perpetuating homelessness and poverty in Vancouver. The problems are complex when dealing with people who are multi-diagnosed with diseases, addictions and stuck in the poverty cycle; however, students are inspired by Liz Evans and her team's commitment to embracing these people and addressing their needs.

Lesson Summaries

Simulating Housing Inequality

Students engage in an experiential learning activity emphasizing the differences in the socio-economic system that are specifically related to housing. The purpose of this activity is to demonstrate the staggering inequities that exist between socio-economic classes within a community. Students are encouraged to think critically about issues of homelessness and poverty in their own communities.

Language is Power

Students examine the role of language in society and how it can be used for both positive and negative purposes. Students are asked to explore their own language as well as the language that pervades their lives via the media, their peers and other elements of the society in which they live. Students will critically analyze the ways in which language can be used to sway how certain situations are viewed.

Substance Misuse

Awareness is brought to the range of possible social factors that contribute to substance misuse in the lives of some of the people living in poverty in the students' own community/city. Through reading case studies, students participate in a critical debate about issues of substance misuse and poverty. With informed knowledge, students develop a plan of action to help address the issues of substance misuse in their own community.

Taking Action on Poverty

Students gain a better understanding of the causes and consequences of homelessness and poverty. Through discussion, reading case studies and interviews, students will have the opportunity to develop compassion and empathy for those who are homeless and living in poverty. Ultimately students design and implement a plan of action to address these issues in their community.



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COST QUANTITY

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